United Nations A/72/95

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 June 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 78 (a) of the preliminary list*
Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Report on the work of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea at its eighteenth meeting

Letter dated 30 May 2017 from the Co-Chairs of the Informal Consultative Process addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/257, we were appointed as the Co-Chairs of the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

We have the honour to submit to you the attached report on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its eighteenth meeting, which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 2017. The outcome of the meeting consists of our summary of issues and ideas raised during the meeting, in particular with regard to the topic of focus: "The effects of climate change on oceans". We should like to highlight that, in the meeting, renowned scientific experts and government representatives, whose presentations are available on the website of the Informal Consultative Process, contributed to enhancing knowledge about the link between climate and oceans, a critical question for the future of our planet.

In line with past practice, we kindly request that the present letter and the report be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 78 (a) of the preliminary list. As also mentioned in your intervention during the meeting, we request that the present letter and attached report be brought to the attention of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, which will be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017.

(*Signed*) Kornelios **Korneliou**
Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Co-Chairs

* A/72/50.

17-09164 (E) 280617

Please recycle

Eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

(15-19 May 2017)

Co-Chairs' summary of discussions[1]

1. The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) held its eighteenth meeting from 15 to 19 May 2017. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/257, the meeting focused its discussions on the topic entitled "The effects of climate change on oceans".

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of 70 States, six intergovernmental organizations and other bodies and entities and one non-governmental organization.[2]

3. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea on the topic of focus of the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (A/72/70); and (b) format and annotated provisional agenda of the meeting (A/AC.259/L.18).

Agenda items 1 and 2
Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

4. The Co-Chairs, Kornelios Korneliou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, and Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, appointed by Peter Thomson, President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, opened the meeting.

5. Opening remarks were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Stephen Mathias; the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Thomas Gass; and Programme Officer, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Shifaana Thowfeequ, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

6. The meeting adopted the format and annotated provisional agenda and approved the organization of work, as orally amended.

Agenda item 3
General exchange of views

7. A general exchange of views took place at the plenary meetings on 15 and 18 May. Delegations highlighted the importance of the Informal Consultative Process, paying particular attention in their statements to the topic of focus, "The effects of climate change on oceans" (paras. 10-48 below). The discussions on the topic of focus within the panel segments are reflected in paragraphs 49 to 111 below.

[1] The summary is intended for reference purposes only and not as a record of the discussions.

[2] A list of participants is available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm.

8. Delegations welcomed the extension by the General Assembly of the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process, with a further review of its effectiveness and utility by the seventy-third session of the Assembly. They noted that the Informal Consultative Process served as a unique platform for integrating knowledge and facilitating the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders on key issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, including emerging issues. Delegations expressed continued support for the role of the Informal Consultative Process in promoting coordination among competent agencies and enhancing awareness of topics relating to oceans, including emerging issues, while promoting the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

9. Appreciation was expressed to those who contributed to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea provided an update on the status of the trust fund reiterating that the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/257, expressed its continued serious concern regarding the lack of resources available in the trust fund, and urged that additional contributions be made.

Topic of focus

10. Delegations welcomed the topic of focus, noting the urgent need to address the effects of climate change on oceans. They expressed appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (A/72/70), as a solid basis for discussions.

11. Delegations generally acknowledged that anthropogenic climate change was affecting the oceans, with environmental, social and economic impacts for all States and, in particular, developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States. They underlined the imperative of immediate action to address such impacts and the need for continued coordinated international focus, in particular in view of the grave implications for countries with low-lying coasts, whose very existence was under threat.

12. In his remarks, the President of the General Assembly underlined the intrinsic link between the effects of climate change on oceans and sustainable development, including for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also noted the relevance of the deliberations by the Informal Consultative Process to the upcoming United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Ocean Conference), which would be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017.

13. The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, Juliette Babb-Riley (Barbados) and Carolyn Schwalger (New Zealand), introduced the Technical Abstract of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment on the Impacts of Climate Change and Related Changes in the Atmosphere on the Ocean. The First Global Integrated Marine Assessment and the Technical Abstract were welcomed as tools to help guide discussions by the Informal Consultative Process.

14. Delegations underscored the importance of addressing the effects of climate change on oceans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including, in

particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14. It was stressed that the negative impacts of climate change on oceans posed significant threats to the efforts of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to achieve sustainable development. In the view of several delegations, the 2030 Agenda would be more difficult to implement if the negative impacts on oceans owing to climate change were not addressed immediately.

15. Several delegations noted that the discussions on the topic of focus could form a substantive contribution to the Ocean Conference, spurring more ambitious action. A delegation encouraged participants to support efforts towards the registration of voluntary commitments ahead of the Conference to address the challenges faced by the oceans in a concrete and action-oriented manner.

16. Several delegations underscored the need for effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which set out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and of related instruments. A delegation expressed the view that that would contribute to building resilience and enhancing ocean-based mitigation, including the absorptive capacity of oceans as carbon sinks, which would in turn support efforts to reach adaptation and mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement.

17. Reference was also made to the work of the General Assembly on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, which had a role in addressing the effects of climate change.

18. The importance of implementing the Paris Agreement and meeting the commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were underlined by many delegations. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities was underlined by several delegations in that context. Emphasis was also placed on implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including the importance of the entry into force of the Doha Amendment relating to the second commitment period under the Protocol. Relevant goals under the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 14, the SAMOA Pathway, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda were also recalled.

19. Many delegations provided information on their national and regional actions, including intended nationally determined contributions to meet climate change-related commitments. Such action was aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of renewable energy, capacity-building, the establishment of marine-protected areas and awareness-raising. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions was underscored by delegations as a priority.

20. It was suggested that General Assembly resolution 65/150, entitled "Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development", should be considered for further follow-up.

21. Ocean warming, ocean acidification and their cumulative impacts were highlighted as major effects of climate change on oceans. It was noted that associated impacts included sea level rise, extreme weather events, loss of polar ice, which in turn resulted in coastal inundation and erosion, destruction of infrastructure and property, saltwater intrusion, degradation of ecosystems as well as agricultural land, ocean stratification and hypoxia, or oxygen depletion, migration of fish stocks and coral bleaching. It was further noted that all of those impacts were affecting the oceans in addition to many existing cumulative pressures, such as

overfishing and harmful fishing practices, pollution, habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity and ocean noise.

22. Climate change and its impacts were recognized as posing a significant risk to people, economies and peace and security, affecting food security, livelihoods, human health and culture, including underwater cultural heritage. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and low-lying coastal countries, as well as coastal African States, were particularly vulnerable to such impacts.

23. In that regard, several delegations highlighted the need to enhance cooperation and coordination, including through capacity-building and the transfer of technology, to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on oceans.

24. Delegations underscored that oceans absorbed more than 90 per cent of the excess heat generated by increases in atmospheric greenhouse gases, causing ocean warming and substantially affecting marine species as well as ecosystems and biodiversity. The strongest warming was projected for surface waters in the tropics and northern hemisphere subtropical regions. Delegations also highlighted that ocean warming was a driving factor for sea level rise and extreme weather events.

25. Concern was expressed by many delegations about the possibility of the total or partial loss of land territory as a result of sea level rise, and its effect on maritime zones and boundaries, in particular for low-lying islands and coasts. It was also noted that the sea level was not rising uniformly, with some areas experiencing three times the global average. In addition to the loss of sovereign territory, the effects on populations living in coastal areas and the possible loss of hundreds of billions of dollars in infrastructure were highlighted. It was noted that in some countries, communities were already being earmarked for possible relocation as a result of sea level rise.

26. Some delegations called for the issue of sea level rise and its legal implications for small island developing States to be discussed by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly or the International Law Commission. A delegation made specific reference to the need to consider the legal implications of sea level rise for maritime delimitation. However, concern was also expressed regarding those proposals, and the need to further discuss them was underlined.

27. Attention was drawn by some delegations to the melting of ice shelves in polar regions as a result of ocean warming, with Arctic sea ice being the lowest in records going back almost 50 years. It was expected that the Arctic might have an ice-free summer around the middle of this century. It was also highlighted that with melting ice and retracting snow-cover, the newly open waters and bare ground absorbed more heat, thereby further amplifying warming. The thawing of permafrost in polar regions also released trapped greenhouse gases, which then amplified emissions. It was noted that a new scientific assessment of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Arctic Council had concluded that the Arctic was shifting, rapidly and in unexpected ways, into a new state. Global warming also caused the melting of ice in high mountainous areas, which led to a rise in avalanches, flooding and landslides and exacerbated sea level rise through the net addition of water to the ocean.

28. Many delegations expressed concern about the increase in the intensity of extreme weather events, including tropical cyclones, typhoons, hurricanes, El Niño/La Niña and the associated floods and landslides, as well as droughts owing to changes in weather patterns which had been linked to ocean warming. Several delegations also noted that increased migration towards coastal areas was expected as a result of drought inland, which could only exacerbate the situation in those areas.

29. It was noted that climate change had led to fewer but more intense tropical cyclones globally and exacerbated phenomena such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Extreme weather events were noted not only to cause loss of life and destruction of property and infrastructure, but more broadly, to roll back development gains, undermine economic growth and livelihoods and endanger food security and access to water, sanitation, health and housing, threatening the enjoyment of basic human rights.

30. The need for international cooperation in order to ensure a timely response to disasters and weather-related hazards, prevent major damage and protect vulnerable populations was emphasized by delegations. In that regard, the importance of developing coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems and risk assessments was highlighted. A delegation suggested using a climate resilience toolkit to help to prepare communities for such hazards.

31. With approximately a quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted having been absorbed by the ocean and causing ocean acidification, delegations expressed concern about the threats posed by increasing ocean acidification to ocean ecosystems, in particular coral reefs, and economic sectors such as fisheries and tourism. Several delegations called for the use of an array of tools, including scientific research, ocean and coastal monitoring, mapping and assessment, to better understand the impacts of ocean acidification on coastal and marine ecosystems. Several delegations also noted the importance of reductions of sulphur in marine fuel in mitigating ocean acidification.

32. A number of delegations provided information on action in regard to ocean acidification, including national activities, such as the development of national policy and action plans and of ocean acidification monitoring systems. Examples of international cooperation, for example through the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, were also highlighted.

33. Delegations pointed out that ocean warming impacted the distribution, reproduction and abundance of marine species, which in turn could negatively influence the catch potential of fish and invertebrates.

34. It was noted that fish provided essential nutrition for more than 3 billion people and at least half of the animal protein and essential mineral needs for 400 million people in the poorest countries. In addition, fisheries and aquaculture directly or indirectly provided livelihoods for more than 500 million people worldwide.

35. The movement of stocks away from low latitudes, where small-scale subsistence fisheries provided food security for many communities, towards higher latitudes, and more developed countries, was noted with concern. Capture fisheries and aquaculture contributed to more than one third of animal protein intake in Africa, while for some coastal African States, it was as high as two thirds. In order to meet the food demand by 2020, aquaculture production in Africa would have to increase by nearly 500 per cent. A delegation raised the need to assess equitable mechanisms for distribution of fish protein owing to the impact of ocean warming on the migration of fisheries in tropical and subtropical areas affecting weaker economies.

36. Several delegations also expressed concern that the effects of climate change on fish stocks would further exacerbate the problems caused by unsustainable fishing practices. In that regard, it was suggested that further discussion on the redistribution of the catch potential of living marine resources was needed.

37. Several delegations noted that oceans hosted many vulnerable ecosystems that were being damaged by the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change, including extreme weather events, sea level rise, natural disasters, coral bleaching

and, in some regions, devastating algal blooms, such as some species of sargassum in certain areas.

38. In particular, coral reefs were being affected by ocean acidification and warming as well as changes in ocean upwellings, thus negatively affecting associated economic sectors, such as fisheries and tourism. It was reported that reefs around the world were in the midst of the longest and worst bleaching event on record. Cooperation through mechanisms, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative, was considered essential.

39. The benefits of blue forest ecosystems, such as mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, saltwater marshes and kelp forests, were highlighted by some delegations as providing multiple ecosystem services, including enhancing carbon stocks, which had the ability to sequester and store carbon; protection against coastal erosion, storms, and flooding; fish habitats; improving water quality; and supporting local economies through fishing, tourism and the provision of building materials and ingredients for medicines. Some delegations provided information on their action at the international and national levels in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of blue carbon ecosystems to support climate change mitigation and adaption action.

40. The need to enhance the resilience of ocean ecosystems and their ability to adapt to climate change was generally recognized. To that end, several delegations called for measures, such as the reduction of land-based pollution, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, improved monitoring of ocean acidification and ocean warming, enhanced ocean governance mechanisms and the establishment of marine-protected areas and other effective area-based management tools, such as marine spatial planning. Several delegations noted the relevance of achieving the global target of conserving 10 per cent of marine and coastal areas and promoting the effective management of marine-protected areas. The need to enhance adaptation and build the resilience of coastal communities was also underlined.

41. Recognizing the important mitigation role of oceans as carbon sinks, several delegations noted the lack of understanding with respect to the potential use of geoengineering technologies, such as solar radiation management, ocean fertilization and carbon dioxide sequestration, to enhance ocean-based mitigation. Other delegations highlighted that many of those potential mitigation measures were very costly, had large environmental footprints and could affect the integrity of the ecosystem. In that regard, the use of the precautionary approach was called for. Several delegations called for more interdisciplinary research and environmental assessments to better understand the impacts of geoengineering on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and of socioeconomic, cultural and ethical issues and regulatory options.

42. The potential use of technologies, such as energy efficiency improvements, plasma batteries, oxygen-hydrogen separation and energy sources such as solar, wind, thermal and nuclear power for climate change mitigation were also noted.

43. It was generally recognized that additional research, in particular on mitigation and adaptation measures, was required. Several delegations called for targeted research on the link between climate change and oceans to help to manage human activities and to mitigate their effects on the ocean environment. Gaps in consistent data coverage of oceans and infrastructure to collect and disseminate data and information, as well as the use of data in capacity and risk management were noted.

44. Delegations called for improved monitoring of ocean acidification and ocean warming and further research on cumulative impacts, including of climate change, on oceans. It was also recognized that further assessments of land/sea physical interaction were necessary and that the United Nations could play a bigger role in

that respect. A call was also made for the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to be strengthened in that regard. It was noted by a delegation that underwater cultural heritage sites had a role in monitoring the effects of climate change over time.

45. Delegations welcomed the decision of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to prepare a special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate, to be finalized in September 2019. The importance of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment was also underlined. Examples of research efforts and programmes at the national and regional levels were provided, as well as those of intergovernmental organizations, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO).

46. Needs with respect to scientific research on the effects of climate change on oceans were underlined, including more comprehensive studies on the impact of sea level rise, which were currently fragmented, and more studies to determine the impact of rising water temperature, as well as ocean acidification. The need for additional financial resources to fund research was also underlined, alongside needs related to technology, expertise and modelling to predict the impact of climate change and plan adaptation as well as mitigation measures.

47. Many delegations emphasized the need for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, including in the context of official development assistance, and access to funding, in order to assist developing States in the implementation of commitments relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In that regard, several delegations highlighted that developed countries, having been historically responsible for greenhouse gas emission levels that contributed to climate change, should contribute to financing the costs of climate change responses, including by fulfilling their pledge of an annual contribution of $100 billion by 2020. In that context, several delegations drew attention to the common but differentiated responsibilities principle under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement and the special needs and vulnerabilities of developing countries to climate change, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, African coastal States, low-lying coastal countries and middle-income countries.

48. Delegations reiterated the need for international cooperation and coordination, including concerted action to combat the effects of climate change on the oceans, noting that owing to the interconnected nature of the oceans, those effects and ensuing environmental, social and economic impacts could not be overcome by any single State. It was noted that both private and public sectors would need to be engaged in the process, including through economic incentives for mitigation action. Cooperation among relevant ministries and multi-stakeholder participation were also highlighted, given that they could enhance political support and foster a whole-of-society approach. Several delegations highlighted the importance of involving local communities.

Area of focus: The effects of climate change on oceans

49. In accordance with the format and annotated provisional agenda, the discussion panel on the topic of focus was organized in two segments structured around: (a) the effects of climate change on oceans, including environmental, social and economic implications; and (b) cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change on oceans: current action and opportunities for further enhancement. The segments were launched by presentations from panellists, followed by interactive discussions.

1. The effects of climate change on oceans, including environmental, social and economic implications

(a) Panel presentations

50. In the first segment, the Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Ko Barrett, provided a presentation on the findings from the Panel's fifth assessment report and preparations for the sixth assessment report, including the special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate. Françoise Gaill of the Committee for Marine and Coastal Research (France) and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique addressed ecosystem services and how climate change might impact them. The Government Secretary General and Deputy Director General, First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration of China, Fangli Qiao, provided insights into the Chinese experience with developing climate projections and predictions, including challenges and possible solutions to improve climate models. Francisco Armando Arias Isaza, Director General of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Research in Colombia, highlighted the effects of climate change on Colombia, as well as action and planning tools to address such effects. Elva Escobar Briones of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico gave a presentation on climate change in ocean systems in Mexico, with a focus on challenges and opportunities for cooperation, in particular in support of science as a basis for policymaking. Philip Sutton of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research of New Zealand shared insights on oceanic impacts on regional climate and the importance of the Argo Programme in achieving global coverage of measurements of ocean temperature and salinity. Lisa Beal of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami noted the importance of western boundary currents in moderating the Earth's climate and addressing the impacts of climate change on oceans. Elizabeth Jewett of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration discussed recent research on ocean acidification, including projected effects and possible local mitigation strategies. Katharina Fabricius of the Australian Institute of Marine Science focused on the implications of ocean acidification on species and ecosystems and discussed possible short-term management strategies. Dimitri Gutiérrez Aguilar of the Institute of Marine Research in Peru gave a presentation on climate change effects on ocean productivity and oxygenation, with a focus on the South-Eastern Pacific. Jennifer Howard of Conservation International gave a presentation on coastal and marine ecosystems and how mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows had the highest potential for climate mitigation. Marlene Moses, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations and representative of the Alliance of Small Island States, delivered a statement on the impacts of climate change on low-lying islands and threats to the existence of such nations owing to sea level rise, loss of freshwater supplies, fish migration and coral bleaching. Carlos Garcia Soto of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography shared insights on the major climate change drivers impacting fisheries and aquaculture. William Cheung of the University of British Columbia in Canada addressed mitigation and adaptation actions required to sustain global marine fisheries under the threat of climate change. Nathalie Hilmi of the Monaco Scientific Centre stressed the need to bridge the gap between ocean acidification impacts and economic valuation and shared outcomes from the workshop series "Bridging the gap between ocean acidification impacts and economic valuation". Essam Yassin Mohammed of the International Institute for Environment and Development gave a presentation on the impacts of climate change on fisheries and the implications for food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Lastly, Maria Fossheim of the Institute of Marine Research of Norway highlighted arctic biodiversity loss and other ecosystem effects of climate change in Arctic waters.

(b) Panel discussions

51. Delegations observed that the figures highlighted by the presenters regarding the long-term effects of climate change and ocean acidification were extremely concerning.

52. Some delegations concurred with the panellists on the importance of developing climate change models and the need for supportive data, particularly from the deep ocean, and asked how knowledge could be improved. They highlighted some of the challenges in obtaining data in situ from deeper water, which required more expensive equipment, whereas satellites could be used to gather data from shallower water. It was underlined that the sharing of knowledge and research infrastructure, as well as capacity-building, could allow the international research community to better understand how oceans, marine ecosystems and ocean communities would continue to be affected by increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

53. Ms. Gaill indicated that new tools were being developed and employed to monitor waters below 2,000 metres in depth, although that was very expensive. Mr. Qiao observed that, while climate models were very important in predicting the impacts of climate change, it was also important to take into account physical processes to improve models, such as surface wave intensity.

54. Mr. Arias Isaza added that, while improved technology was allowing data to be gathered from deeper areas, the speed of improvement in data collection was not matched by the capacity of researchers to analyse and interpret the data. International cooperation was needed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and the transfer of technology and to improve responses.

55. In response to a question on why there were not more Argo units in some areas in the South Pacific, Mr. Sutton noted that Argo floats collected data globally, but were not designed to operate in areas shallower than 1,000 metres. He added that floats that could be deployed at shallower depths were being developed.

56. Mr. Sutton pointed out that Argo floats had also been used to collect information for El Niño forecasting. However, with respect the most recent El Niño event off the coast of north Peru, he noted that it was atypical, had evolved very quickly and was the first event of its kind in modern records.

57. A delegation noted that discussions on climate change were mostly focused on adaptation measures and stressed that more attention should be placed on mitigation action and creating societal changes, including creative approaches that would, for example, encourage corporate responsibility or increase awareness and literacy in respect of the impacts of climate change on the oceans. Ms. Barrett noted in that regard that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was organized in working groups designed to address all components of climate change, including mitigation.

58. In response to a question relating to the concept of loss and damage, as incorporated in the Paris Agreement, Ms. Barrett indicated that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provided the scientific basis for policy decisions, including in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Relevant scientific literature on the issue would therefore be considered in either the Panel's sixth assessment report or the relevant special report.

59. The vulnerability of coral reefs, which had been affected in recent years by a global mass bleaching event caused by ocean warming, was highlighted. Reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and building the resilience of coastal areas were identified as essential to prevent further negative impacts. Reference was made to Australia's Reef 2050 Plan which, among other things, sought to increase the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef to longer-term threats such as climate change.

International cooperation and joint action to build the resilience of coral reefs was also seen as essential. The International Coral Reef Initiative was cited as a good example of such cooperation. In the coming years, scientists were expected to have enough data to make predictions on bleaching events.

60. Some participants stressed the vulnerability of islands, in particular low-lying islands, to sea level rise caused by climate change and the need for technology transfer and capacity-building for States on the "front line" of the impacts of climate change. Particular vulnerabilities were highlighted in relation to land disappearance and limited options for relocation, with consequent existential challenges, as well as impacts on fresh water supplies and food production owing to salt water infiltrations. In response to a question on what priority action was being taken by countries that produced large amounts of greenhouse gases to address the negative effects on island States, Mr. Qiao noted that those countries were also greatly impacted by climate change, including higher-intensity storms, and were implementing the necessary responses. A delegation raised a question concerning the impact of melting icecaps on low-lying islands. In response, Ms. Barrett noted that the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate recognized those linkages and would contain a chapter on sea level rise and implications for low-lying islands, coasts and communities. A chapter box on low-lying islands and coasts had been included in recognition of the specific threats faced by those areas.

61. In response to a question on whether it was possible to control heat transport in ocean current systems to mitigate climate change, Ms. Beal noted that it was not possible for humans to realistically manage those systems. She highlighted that the ocean was absorbing approximately 90 per cent of the excess heat energy trapped in the climate system owing to greenhouse gas emissions. It was extremely relevant, however, to understand how the ocean stored that energy and when and where it would be fed back to the atmosphere. She noted that understanding ocean circulation was primary in addressing those questions.

62. In addressing a comment related to the discrepancy between a decreasing trend in sea surface temperatures observed in the South-Eastern Pacific and an increasing trend predicted from regional climate models, Mr. Gutiérrez Aguilar noted that, while a coastal cooling trend in temperature had prevailed for the past 40 years, recent assessments indicated that that trend was changing. Observations over the past decade showed a retreat of the coastal upwelling front, which would indicate decreasing upwelling, which was likely to be a consequence of warming offshore.

63. A question was raised as to whether marine-protected areas could be used as a tool to rehabilitate dead zones or hypoxic areas in the ocean. Ms. Jewett noted that the main drivers of coastal hypoxic areas were nutrient pollution from land-based activities and temperature changes. In her view, marine-protected areas could have a beneficial effect in raising awareness of policymakers in respect of the need to address land-based pollution in conjunction with efforts to protect coastal areas.

64. In addressing the effects of ocean acidification in specific areas, Ms. Jewett noted that they would continue to be experienced in the distant future owing to the high levels of carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere and being absorbed by oceans. Ms. Fabricius added that current levels of carbon dioxide in the oceans still allowed coral reefs to grow, but indicated that projections to the end of the century were very concerning and highlighted the need to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

65. In response to a question relating to the impact of federal legislation on ocean acidification in the United States of America, Ms. Jewett explained that the regulations focused on providing for increased research and monitoring to gain a better understanding of how ocean acidification was affecting coastal waters. She

noted that scientists and industry in the United States were exploring potential local adaptation measures, but that was at a very preliminary stage and needed further investigation.

66. Responding to a question relating to the amount of the world's carbon dioxide emissions being absorbed by the oceans, Ms. Jewett explained that, while there might be some regional variability in carbon uptake owing to differences in primary productivity, scientists were confident that the oceans were absorbing about 27 per cent of emissions overall. That figure was the result of extensive research based on long-term international ocean observation efforts. She noted that more research was necessary to determine how global warming would affect the ocean's capability to take up carbon dioxide.

67. In response to a question on the recognition of the role of seagrasses in natural sequestration of carbon dioxide, Ms. Fabricius noted that those habitats were an important focus of the blue carbon economy. Ms. Howard highlighted the immense potential of seagrasses, mangroves and salt marshes in mitigation strategies and highlighted the work of the International Blue Carbon Initiative. Reference was also made to the European Union regulations identifying seagrass meadows as a priority habitat, which required its member States to protect and preserve at least 60 per cent of such meadows as part of the Marine Natura 2000 Network.

68. In response to concerns raised regarding a potential lack of knowledge related to the impact that carbon sequestration could have in an integrated ecosystem like the oceans, Ms. Howard noted that more research was needed to fully understand the details of carbon movement in both ocean and terrestrial ecosystems. However, she explained that there was already significant research to account for the majority of carbon movement within the carbon cycle. In particular, she noted that there was sufficient scientific evidence proving the significant potential of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass for climate change mitigation.

69. Concerns were raised with respect to the possibility of the release of previously sequestrated carbon back into the atmosphere caused by the degradation of marine ecosystems, and it was suggested that potential sanctions on countries for allowing such degradation were needed. In response, Ms. Howard highlighted that under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and greenhouse gas accounting, countries had to account for gains and losses in greenhouse gas emissions in different sectors. She added that if coastal ecosystems were a prioritized sector, countries would need to account for both sequestration and storage of carbon dioxide, as well as emissions from destructive activities, just as they would for terrestrial ecosystems.

70. Additional concerns were raised regarding the increasing focus on the potential for carbon sequestration by marine ecosystems, as opposed to emission reduction. Ms. Howard agreed that emissions reductions were more significant than any sequestration value from a natural system. She added that, based on estimates by Conservation International, only 30 per cent of the climate change mitigation recommended under the Paris Agreement could be achieved by carbon sequestration from natural systems. The remaining 70 per cent would need to be based on emission reduction strategies.

71. A view was expressed that, owing to possible extensive damage to key economic and social infrastructure from the effects of climate change on oceans, there was a need to address those issues from a security perspective, at the global, regional and national levels.

72. Regarding the effect of ocean warming on the migration patterns of tropical and subtropical fisheries, Ms. Beal noted that changes in temperature would have an

effect on where fish would reproduce and feed, therefore affecting the distribution of pelagic species. Ms. Jewett also noted that the fifth assessment report of the International Panel on Climate Change discussed changes in the distribution of species in response to changes in temperature.

73. A number of delegations highlighted the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on fisheries, including shifts in the distribution ranges of species towards the poles and deeper water owing to ocean warming and destruction of marine ecosystems caused by extreme weather events, as well as ocean deoxygenation and harmful algal blooms.

74. A question was asked on the availability of research on the impacts of deoxygenation on fish stocks. Mr. Garcia Soto noted that deoxygenation was an issue that could affect fisheries in semi-enclosed seas, such as the Black Sea and parts of the Mediterranean. Mr. Cheung noted the sensitivity of pelagic fisheries to oxygen-poor zones in the open ocean and indicated that the distribution of tuna stocks in the Atlantic was impacted by those zones.

75. In response to a question concerning the impacts of extreme weather events on fisheries and aquaculture, Mr. Cheung underlined the importance of considering such impacts and noted, for example, pressures on fish stocks resulting from an increase in fishing for subsistence purposes after an extreme weather event. He also highlighted the importance of conserving and managing fish stocks and ecosystems in order to increase their resilience and help to reduce the impacts of such extreme events on coastal communities.

76. A delegation expressed concern about the impact of climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems. A question was raised on the impact of the loss of sea ice on lower trophic levels in the Arctic ocean, specifically, the impacts of under-ice algal blooms, as well as the prevalence and seasonal variance of open-ice algae and how it affected the food web. Ms. Fossheim explained that there was a fallout of algae from marginal sea ice melting that fuelled benthic production on the bottom of the ocean. When the open sea ice was already lost, however, that effect did not occur, which created a system that was more pelagically dominated.

77. In response to a question regarding the importance of fisheries policies for adaptation to the impacts of climate change, Mr. Garcia Soto stressed the need for policymakers to take into account social needs, national interests and scientific advice in a balanced manner. He also emphasized the role of dialogue in resolving conflicts caused by shifts in the distribution patterns of fish stocks.

78. A delegation raised the possibility of considering the efforts of States to respond to the impacts of climate change on fisheries in determining the allocation of the total allowable catch to States in regional fisheries management organizations. Ms. Hilmi noted in that context that quotas needed to be negotiated using both current data and future projections and emphasized the importance of involving both scientists and policymakers in that regard.

79. Responding to a question on gaps in understanding climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture, Mr. Cheung emphasized the need for ecosystem-based fisheries management and noted the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on climate change adaptation in fisheries in terms of, inter alia, stock assessments, ecosystem-scale considerations and the precautionary approach. The need to educate fishers and increase consumer awareness, including by changing their consumption habits in favour of sustainable fish stocks and climate-resilient aquaculture species was also mentioned as a way of tackling the problem of overfishing. The importance of linking Sustainable Development Goal 14 with Goal 12 was underscored in that regard.

80. The utility of "dynamic marine-protected areas" in addressing the migration of fish stocks outside existing marine-protected areas owing to climate change was noted by Messrs Garcia Soto and Cheung and a delegation. Mr. Cheung also noted the benefits of dynamic marine-protected areas in coastal waters in restoring fisheries and supplementing existing management measures, including the reduction of by-catch. He also stressed the need for shorter timescales in the design of such measures. Mr. Cheung highlighted the importance of incorporating projected environmental changes into the design of marine-protected areas and networks of marine-protected areas in order to include both current and future predicted habitats.

81. In response to a question, Mr. Cheung noted that there was no single way to designate dynamic marine-protected areas, but suggested the need to consider remote sensing data on oceanographic features in areas beyond national jurisdiction to locate sensitive pelagic resources. He indicated that regional fisheries management organizations could designate marine-protected areas taking into account dynamic elements, such as temperature patterns in different seasons, as well as the need for a portfolio of measures to protect and restore fish stocks, including ecosystem-based approaches. Further information on the concept of dynamic marine-protected areas, including best practices, was considered useful by some delegations, including how such tools might help to restore fish stocks, despite ocean acidification and ocean warming.

82. A delegation raised the possibility of incorporating dynamic marine-protected areas into the negotiations for an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, to be developed under General Assembly resolution 69/292. Mr. Cheung stressed the benefits of dynamic marine-protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in addressing the impacts of climate change on fisheries. Mr. Garcia Soto noted that the tool could also be incorporated into existing fisheries agreements.

83. Mr. Garcia Soto and a delegation emphasized the need to consider local priorities in developing fisheries management measures, such as marine-protected areas, as opposed to universal solutions or targets. It was important in that regard to allow for adjustments in marine-protected areas and area closures in the light of the best available scientific information and to consider different types of area-based management tools. Attention was drawn in that regard to the existing practice of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

84. The negative impacts of climate change on fisheries in developing countries and their coastal populations, as well as their vulnerabilities, were highlighted by a number of delegations. Messrs Mohammed and Garcia Soto pointed to the need to address the impact of climate change on small-scale fisheries, given their importance in poverty and hunger eradication and the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 14. It was noted in that context that small-scale fisheries provided up to 60 per cent of the global fish catch and employed more than 90 per cent of fishers globally, the majority of whom were from developing countries. Mr. Mohammed called for an institutional bias in favour of small-scale fisheries to enable those communities to be more resilient to the impact of climate change.

85. Mr. Garcia Soto also recalled the importance of Goal 14 for States with limited capacity. Possible means of addressing the impacts of climate change on developing States were mentioned, such as capacity-building and transfer of technology, training in alternative livelihoods and access to trade. The need to address the issue of coastal erosion was also emphasized.

86. Mr. Cheung pointed to the ultimate need to meet emissions targets under the Paris Agreement, but also noted the importance of adaptation measures in the

medium term and short term that could help to reduce climate change impacts on communities and States, for example, by reducing local stressors, maintaining critical habitats for fish stocks and providing a wider portfolio of livelihood opportunities.

2. Cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change on oceans: current action and opportunities for further enhancement

(a) Panel presentations

87. In the second segment, Hernan Garcia of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Data Satellite, Data and Information Service, National Centers for Environmental Information, gave a presentation on integrated global ocean databases for documenting ocean variability. Vladimir Ryabinin of IOC-UNESCO highlighted the role of the Global Ocean Observing System and its inputs into, inter alia, early warning systems, global and regional assessments and forecasting. Sindre Langaas of the Norwegian Institute for Water Research gave a presentation on the role of "blue forests" in capturing and storing atmospheric carbon and providing a variety of other beneficial ecosystem services, both nationally and globally. Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of UNEP, Elliot Harris, described regional strategies to address climate change through the application of ecosystem-based adaptation. Bethan O'Leary of the Environment Department of the University of York in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland gave a presentation on the way to build resilience into ocean management, with a focus on marine reserves in a changing climate. Cyrille Frederic Marie Barnerias highlighted the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in climate change finance, including lessons learned and ways forward. Hassan Moustahfid of FAO described current actions and identified solutions and opportunities in addressing the effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture. Muhammad Lukman highlighted the work of the Coral Triangle Initiative on coral reefs, fisheries and food security, including efforts to address the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, and other anthropogenic impacts, on coral reefs in the region. Andi Eka Sakya of the Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency of Indonesia described the effects of climate change on people living in coastal areas in Indonesia and the mitigation and adaptation efforts in the country, with a focus on early warning systems. Lastly, Christina Hioureas of Foley Hoag gave a presentation on the effects of rising sea levels on maritime boundaries and deterritorialization, including the legal consequences of shifting baselines, changes in the characterization of maritime features and disappearing States.

(b) Discussion

88. It was stressed that, while scientific research was an ongoing process, the need to further develop marine scientific research, such as ocean observations and monitoring in order to improve scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change on the oceans, should not delay action to address climate change. Evidence of the effects of climate change on the oceans was already incontrovertible and societal changes were needed to reduce global emissions. In response, Mr. Ryabinin highlighted that climate science would have a very important role in identifying solutions, including with regard to ocean observations and data collection, carbon capture and storage and the effects of climate change on fisheries.

89. In response to a comment on the importance of marine scientific research, including in situ monitoring and scientific observation, Mr. Garcia indicated that there was a need for different levels of ocean observation systems. Whereas in situ observations, such as Argo floats, provided data on long-term ocean processes, space-based satellite measurements were more appropriate for faster developing

events. Mr. Ryabinin also noted that newer observation systems, such as gliders, would be useful in regions beyond the scope of Argo floats, such as polar regions. A delegation underlined the need for greater and more robust observing systems.

90. Messrs Ryabinin and Garcia and a delegation stressed the importance of maintaining the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology in Situ Observing Platform Support Centre, which monitored the locations of Argo floats and informed coastal States when such floats were likely to enter exclusive economic zones.

91. The role of ocean observations in predicting El Niño Southern Oscillation events was raised. Mr. Ryabinin responded that such events could never be perfectly predicted, but noted that progress had been made. The 2015-2016 El Niño event, for example, had been predicted. He stressed that worldwide observations, which were now available to all, were of utmost importance. Mr. Ryabinin also noted in that regard the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, Phase 6, which was a freely available climate modelling project and had climate modelled predictions up to 2300.

92. In the context of ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, it was noted by a delegation that some Regional Seas Programmes faced significant limitations and were in need of additional support from UNEP, for example, in the North-west Pacific. Mr. Harris noted that, while the Regional Seas Programmes had different mandates and levels of support, funding and success, UNEP already assisted the Programmes in different ways. He suggested that the Regional Seas Programmes were an underutilized platform for cooperation between States in addressing the effects of climate change on the oceans, including in the context of cooperation with regional fisheries management organizations. He hoped that UNEP member States would work to strengthen Regional Seas Programmes and deploy them to address common issues, including ecosystem-based adaptation strategies for climate change.

93. In response to a question concerning the interaction of the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes with organizations working on marine science, Mr. Harris highlighted the potential of such Programmes to build capacity and establish frameworks to share regionally relevant information with regional and global partners. Mr. Ryabinin pointed to the long-standing cooperation between UNEP Regional Seas Programmes and IOC-UNESCO and noted that the current memorandum of understanding between the organizations was being updated in the light of Sustainable Development Goal 14. Mr. Langaas noted that, while the Regional Seas Programmes had traditionally focused on marine pollution and had limited capacity to address integrated ocean management, opportunities for improvement were available. In that regard, he drew attention to a 2012 UNEP report entitled "Blue Carbon — Opportunities for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans".

94. It was noted with interest that kelp forests might also have a hitherto unrecognized role in carbon sequestration, although Mr. Langaas noted that further research was needed given that the estimates of possible carbon sequestration were wide-ranging.

95. A question was raised as to whether dynamic marine-protected areas could address issues related to the migration of fish stocks owing to climate change. Ms. O'Leary noted that area-based management tools were already used in fisheries management, for example, to mitigate by-catch, but they did not address other uses of the ocean, such as seabed mining. She indicated that, while predictions had been developed on changes in fisheries distribution owing to climate change, the science was uncertain and had not been well incorporated into fisheries management. Ms. O'Leary stressed the need for a range of tools in protecting fish stocks and for marine-protected areas to take into account both existing and future conditions.

96. In response to a question concerning the use of the Global Ocean Observing System by regional fisheries management organizations, Mr. Ryabinin noted that there was no direct relationship or agreements between IOC-UNESCO and existing regional fisheries management organizations. However, he noted the availability and existing use of scientific research and observation data in various sectors, including fisheries management, to support decision-making.

97. Mr. Garcia noted that there were a number of capacity-building opportunities to improve the capacity of developing States to analyse data in support of evidence-based informed policy decisions, including the IOC-UNESCO courses on international oceanographic data and information exchange. Attention was also drawn by some delegations to cases where capacity-building was being implemented through joint programmes or initiatives on maritime observation and analysis between competent agencies of Member States.

98. Mr. Ryabinin stressed that developing capacity in respect of ocean research and observation was one of the most important targets for IOC-UNESCO. He recalled that IOC-UNESCO, in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, had recently held the Regional Training Course on the Conduct of Marine Scientific Research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in Saint Lucia and announced that another training course would be held with the assistance of the Korea Maritime Institute in the near future. He also noted that the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, with its rapid expanding system and network of regional centres, was developing online courses, taught in local languages, focusing on such areas as climate change, biodiversity, data handling and integrating research into policies, while incorporating traditional knowledge. He encouraged all Member States to participate in activities held under the auspices of IOC-UNESCO in order to derive the related benefits.

99. Mr. Ryabinin announced that during the upcoming Ocean Conference, IOC-UNESCO would unveil the *Global Ocean Science Report: The Current Status of Ocean Science around the World*, which was an attempt to measure worldwide capacity for marine scientific research, particularly in developing counties. He noted that the report and online database would detail current capacity in ocean science in terms of people, infrastructure, investment, interest and publications.

100. In response to questions on the process of securing funding from GEF, Mr. Barnerias described the funding and implementation process. He suggested that developing States should approach GEF at the beginning of the funding cycle and noted an average time of two years between an application for financing and implementation of a project. Mr. Barnerias clarified that GEF funding was also available to economies in transition in some circumstances, particularly those that had ratified annex E to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. He indicated that GEF could also assist States in defining priorities for funding and noted in that context the role of national focal points. He also mentioned the possibility of funding for regional or cross-border projects.

101. A delegation queried whether proactive approaches to access funding and resources had been developed for countries that were most affected by climate change. In response, Mr. Barnerias called attention to an upcoming Pacific regional workshop that would clarify needs and GEF funding opportunities. A question was also raised on the possibility of funding for marine-protected areas, especially in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Mr. Barnerias explained that, while a fund was being set up to finance marine-protected areas, additional financing would be needed to ensure their long-term sustainability. With regard to marine-protected areas on the high seas, which were not currently a specific mandate for GEF, financing would require partner contributions and rules for resource allocation.

102. Addressing a question regarding available funding to develop the monitoring capacities of States to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, Mr. Moustahfid noted that FAO had undertaken capacity-building initiatives, including to assist States in implementing the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

103. In response to a question relating to inter-agency cooperation and coordination, Mr. Barnerias noted that GEF funding was also implemented through its collaboration with 18 other organizations. Mr. Moustahfid reported that FAO collaborated with many organizations to address fisheries adaptation to climate change, including GEF, the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. FAO also collaborated with UNEP, among many others, including through the Regional Seas Programme, towards the implementation of ecosystem approaches, as well as on climate change. Mr. Lukman recalled that the Coral Triangle Initiative was working in a harmonized way with regional partners to synergize resources for addressing climate change, but noted difficulty in obtaining the necessary funding, including regionally.

104. In response to a question regarding the incorporation of traditional knowledge into the work of the Coral Triangle Initiative, Mr. Lukman responded that such knowledge was embedded as part of its participatory process.

105. A delegation stressed the importance of involving the private sector in data collection and analysis. Another delegation expressed concern that, for people living in atolls, the usefulness of early warning systems was limited, given that they could not evacuate to higher ground and lacked the necessary infrastructure to relocate people quickly. In response, Mr. Sakya noted that precursor technology was being developed to give warning 5 to 25 days in advance of an earthquake event to ensure that people could evacuate the area in time. He expressed the hope that that technology could be embedded in tsunami warning systems in the future.

106. IOC-UNESCO noted that the organization would conduct a review of standard operating procedures for all types of warnings to ensure the minimization of damage and loss of life. However, there were significant uncertainties in assessing and anticipating sea level rise in different regions.

107. Addressing a question concerning the type of information conveyed through "climate field schools", Mr. Sakya noted that the information included short-term and long-term data and trends based on parameters of relevance to the area selected by the participants.

108. A delegation queried how to enhance legal certainty and stability and address gaps in the current international legal framework in the light of the impacts of climate change on maritime boundaries. Ms. Hioureas recommended concluding maritime delimitation agreements. Another delegation noted that maritime delimitation negotiations were costly and time-consuming, while joint development agreements concluded with a neighbouring country could apply to all unresolved maritime issues, such as fisheries. Ms. Hioureas suggested that efforts should be taken to enter into or ensure that joint development agreements remained in existence despite changing circumstances owing to climate change. She noted, for example, that in some cases entitlements might no longer overlap as a result of shifting baselines. A delegation expressed the view that entering into delimitation agreements too soon might require having to reopen negotiations when additional changes took place owing to sea level rise and expressed a preference for joint development agreements. Differing views were expressed concerning the legal implications of arbitral awards relating to the law of the sea.

109. In response to a question concerning the consequences of sea level rise in the case of fixed coordinates included in maritime boundary treaties, Ms. Hioureas noted that, while a fundamental change of circumstances could not be invoked as a ground for terminating or withdrawing from a treaty establishing a boundary, possible grounds for doing so might exist, considering that the issue of geographic uncertainty had not been contemplated during the negotiations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. She also noted the possibility of including relevant clauses in maritime boundary treaties to address changing circumstances and prevent disputes in the future. A delegation reiterated that a fundamental change of circumstances could not be invoked as a ground for terminating or withdrawing from a treaty establishing a boundary. The delegation also stressed the need to ensure stability in international law and expressed caution about overemphasizing the use of joint development zones as an alternative to maritime boundary delimitation, noting that they presupposed the legitimacy of claims.

110. In response to a question concerning funding for legal expertise necessary for maritime boundary negotiations, Ms. Hioureas noted that there was interest from private foundations in supporting State activities in that regard in the light of sea level rise. Mr. Moustahfid also indicated that FAO could assist with activities related to issues within its mandate.

111. Noting the need for in-depth legal analysis of the impacts of sea level rise on the law of the sea, some delegations suggested that the topic could be included on the agenda of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly or the International Law Commission. A delegation noted that the workload of the Sixth Committee was already heavy and that a future meeting of the Informal Consultative Process could focus on that issue.

Agenda item 4
Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

112. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel made a statement, in his capacity as Focal Point of UN-Oceans, providing information on the activities of UN-Oceans since the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, including in relation to the topic of focus.[3]

113. He stated that UN-Oceans continued to implement its mandate to strengthen and promote the coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to oceans and coastal areas, noting the momentum for oceans resulting from the Ocean Conference. The Focal Point called attention to the organization of two UN-Oceans side events during the Conference, to be held on 5 June 2017, and in collaboration with UN-Water, on 7 June 2017. The UN-Oceans members had also actively contributed to the review of draft concept papers for the seven partnership dialogues to be held at the Ocean Conference. UN-Oceans members had also agreed to register a voluntary commitment focusing on raising awareness on ocean-related regulatory and policy frameworks and members' activities in support of their implementation.

114. In the light of the forthcoming review of the terms of reference of UN-Oceans at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the Focal Point of UN-Oceans drew attention to some of the achievements of UN-Oceans to date, including the launch of the UN-Oceans inventory of mandates and activities, and effective cooperation and coordination among all relevant agencies. He highlighted challenges and potential opportunities for enhanced inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Regarding future opportunities for UN-Oceans, the Focal Point

[3] The full statement is available from www.unoceans.org/documents/en/.

pointed to, among other things, the need to better engage existing members but also other key organizations, such as the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He emphasized that UN-Oceans members were willing to "Deliver as one", to assist States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14. With the necessary support, UN-Oceans members could further engage in capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on issues related to coastal and ocean areas. The Focal Point noted that an enhanced role for UN-Oceans would require a revision of its terms of reference to provide a clear mandate to, in particular, develop joint projects. Financial support would also need to be considered.

Agenda item 5
Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

115. Referring to paragraphs 333 and 335 of General Assembly resolution 71/257, the Co-Chairs invited views and proposals on ways to devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists, so as to facilitate the work of the Assembly. No statements were made.

Agenda item 6
Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea taking into account resolution 71/257 on the topic of the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process

116. The Co-Chairs drew attention to the composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly and invited comments from representatives, while recalling the decision of the Assembly that the topic of focus for the Informal Consultative Process at its nineteenth meeting, in 2018, would be "Anthropogenic underwater noise". Some delegations expressed their satisfaction with the topic of focus for the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

117. The issue of sustainable consumption and production patterns, in particular with regard to the sustainability of the oceans, was highlighted by some delegations for inclusion in the list of issues. The Co-Chairs invited any representative wishing to propose additional issues for inclusion in the list to submit them to the Co-Chairs or to the Secretariat in writing before the end of the meeting.

118. Some delegations noted that suggestions for topics to be considered by the Informal Consultative Process were without prejudice to the negotiations by the General Assembly on the resolution on oceans and the law of the sea.

119. A delegation suggested that the Informal Consultative Process could provide an appropriate forum to review, on a regular basis, implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other ocean-related goals of the 2030 Agenda. Another delegation recalled that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was the body for the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.

120. The importance of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique and informal forum allowing participation by scientific and technical experts along with government representatives to discuss a wide range of issues on the law of the sea was underlined.

United Nations A/72/96

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 June 2017

Original: English/Spanish

Seventy-second session
Item 87 of the preliminary list*
Effects of armed conflicts on treaties

Effects of armed conflicts on treaties

Comments and information received from Governments

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The International Law Commission adopted the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties at its sixty-third session, in 2011 (see A/66/10, para. 94). In its resolution 66/99, the General Assembly took note of the draft articles as adopted by the Commission, the text of which was annexed to the resolution, and commended them to the attention of Governments without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action. The Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Effects of armed conflicts on treaties" with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles.

2. In its resolution 69/125, the General Assembly recalled its resolution 66/99 and that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the Assembly that it take note of the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties in a resolution and annex them to that resolution, and that it consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles. The Assembly emphasized the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (*a*), of the Charter of the United Nations, and noted that the subject of the effects of armed conflicts on treaties was of major importance in the relations of States. The Assembly commended once again the articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties to the attention of Governments without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action, and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Effects of armed conflicts on treaties" with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles.

3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite Governments to submit written comments on any future action regarding

* A/72/50.

17-09997 (E) 200617

Please recycle

the articles. By a note verbale dated 21 January 2015, the Secretary-General invited Governments to submit those comments no later than 1 June 2017. He reiterated that invitation by a note verbale dated 12 January 2016.

4. As at 16 June 2017, the Secretary-General had received written comments from the following States: Australia, Austria and El Salvador. Those comments are reproduced below.

II. Comments on any future action regarding the articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties

Australia

[Original: English]
[6 June 2017]

Australia is particularly cognizant that the principles outlined in these draft articles could influence consideration of the relationship between the law of armed conflict and other areas of international law. In this regard, Australia notes the ongoing consideration of the application of human rights law during armed conflict. Australia wishes to ensure that the underlying rationale for the principles articulated in the articles does not set unintended precedents that would have an impact on these other considerations.

Australia notes that these draft articles have been commended to the General Assembly, with consideration to be given regarding whether to elaborate a Convention on this topic. The varied nature and effect of armed conflict is such that the level of consensus required to successfully conclude a binding international instrument on this topic may not be possible. In a non-binding form, the draft articles would remain a useful source of guidance, complementing the existing Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which should continue to be the primary source of law on this topic.

Austria

[Original: English]
[1 June 2017]

Austria would like to state that it still has doubts about the definition of "armed conflict" in article 2 of the draft articles and the inclusion of non-international armed conflicts in the scope of the draft articles. Therefore, Austria proposes to defer the discussion on future action and to further monitor State practice in this regard.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2017]

Taking the safeguard clause established in article 73 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties as their starting point, the articles constitute a major achievement in terms of codification and progressive development, which will help to fill certain legal gaps that currently exist at the international level.

With regard to the content of these articles, the Republic of El Salvador emphasizes the general principle contained in article 3, which indicates that the existence of an armed conflict does not ipso facto terminate or suspend the

operation of treaties, thereby reaffirming the legal stability and continuity of international obligations.

In this regard, it is important to ensure compliance with certain treaties during armed conflicts, not only those setting out the rules of international humanitarian law, but also those encompassing a wide range of obligations, such as obligations relating to the environment, trade and peaceful methods of dispute resolution, which are also essential for the functioning of States and ensuring the protection of all persons under their jurisdiction.

The Republic of El Salvador therefore believes that it is essential to interpret the content of article 7 in conjunction with the indicative list of treaties to be found in the annex, as only their joint implementation will be able to provide clear rules regarding the continuity of treaties.

With regard to the future form of the articles, El Salvador is not opposed to the adoption of a binding instrument on the subject, but recognizes that it might be useful to establish a working group or other mechanism to address outstanding issues or significant differences that still exist among States.

United Nations A/72/97

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 June 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 101 (b) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa from July 2016 to June 2017.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to assist Member States, at their request, and intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace, security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

In response to the continued challenge to peace, security and stability posed by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the region, in particular in Central Africa and the Sahel, the Regional Centre focused its work on providing assistance to Member States to control small arms and light weapons through capacity-building for civilian authorities, including national commissions on small arms and light weapons, defence and security forces and United Nations peacekeeping mission personnel in combating illicit small arms and light weapons. The Centre supported States in preventing the diversion of such weapons, in particular to non-State armed groups and terrorist groups, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). It also provided assistance in the implementation of instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Centre partnered with the African Union, subregional organizations, civil society organizations and other United Nations entities.

* A/72/50.

17-10193 (E) 030717

Please recycle

The Regional Centre continued to provide substantive support on disarmament issues to the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa at their ministerial and governmental expert meetings.

The Regional Centre also implemented its communication strategy by developing information and outreach material and by proactively reaching out to stakeholders, including through commemorative activities to help to promote peace and disarmament in Africa.

The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to those Member States, in particular Togo, as host country of the Centre, and other institutions that made financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre, enabling it to fulfil its mandate during the reporting period, and calls upon all Member States and other stakeholders to continue to make contributions.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/76, the General Assembly commended the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for its sustained support to Member States over the past 30 years in implementing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation activities through seminars and conferences, capacity-building and training, policy and technical expertise, and information and advocacy at the global, regional and national levels.

2. The present report, submitted pursuant to the request contained in that resolution for the Secretary-General to submit a report at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the resolution, covers the activities of the Regional Centre from July 2016 to June 2017. The financial statement of the Trust Fund for the Centre for 2016 is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The Regional Centre was established in 1986 in Lomé pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. The Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and of voluntary contributions from Member States and other donors.

4. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre implemented its programme of work in the following main areas: peace and security; conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons; weapons of mass destruction; information and outreach; and cooperation and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, and other entities.

III. Objectives and activities

5. The Regional Centre provides support and technical assistance to Member States in Africa, at their request, in the promotion of disarmament, peace and security through capacity-building and training programmes, advocacy, research and information sharing. It works in partnership with the African Union and African regional organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities. In the light of the specific nature of security and disarmament issues in Africa, the Centre continued to place emphasis on activities aimed at preventing the illicit trafficking in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

6. The Regional Centre continued to raise the awareness of African Member States of issues relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular by assisting in implementing disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors.

A. Peace and security

7. The Regional Centre worked with the African Union Commission to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16 and targets 16.1, on the reduction of violence and

16.4, on the reduction of illicit flows of arms. The Centre also engaged with the Commission in supporting the African Union aspiration to "silence the guns by 2020", in accordance with Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and the master road map of practical steps to silence the guns in Africa by the year 2020 ("Lusaka master road map 2016").

8. The Regional Centre continued to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel through the provision of technical assistance to improve small arms control and the physical security and stockpile management of such weapons. The Centre also actively participated in inter-agency discussions on and the review of the integrated strategy, led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, in order to align it to the current challenges of the region. In that context, the Centre continued to provide expert advice to Member States, United Nations missions and other stakeholders on issues relating to disarmament in general and weapons stockpile management, safety and security across the subregion.

9. The Regional Centre provided substantive support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa at its forty-third and forty-fourth ministerial meetings, held in Sao Tome in November 2016 and in Yaoundé in June 2017, respectively. The Centre updated the 11 States members of the Committee on developments in the field of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation at the international, regional and subregional levels and on international and regional efforts in promoting and supporting the implementation of disarmament instruments.

10. Member States noted with appreciation the tangible achievements of the Regional Centre and the impact of the assistance that it provided to Central African States in the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention). The Centre had provided legal, policy and technical assistance to Member States of the Central African subregion during the drafting of the Convention. On 8 March 2017, the Kinshasa Convention entered into force, following its ratification by Angola. On 23 March 2017, Sao Tome ratified the Convention. This is a testament to the collective commitment of the 11 States members of the Committee to preventing and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and reducing the human suffering that they cause in the subregion and in Africa as a whole.

11. The Regional Centre participated in the annual meeting of heads of United Nations field presences in the Central African region organized by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and held in Libreville on 23 and 24 March 2017. Participants at the meeting assessed the prevailing peace and security challenges facing the region, including the illicit proliferation of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons. They welcomed the entry into force of the Kinshasa Convention and called for its ratification by the remaining States and support for its effective implementation by all relevant United Nations entities. The United Nations is preparing for the first Conference of States Parties to the Kinshasa Convention, to be held within one year of its entry into force.

12. The Regional Centre continued to examine the adverse consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. The Centre and other United Nations agencies participated in the activities of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, held in Lomé on 15 October 2016. The Centre prepared a paper contributing to the emerging discourse on enhancing maritime security in

Africa and providing an overview of the challenges, conceptual definitions and international instruments concerning maritime security in the continent.

13. On 23 November 2016, the Regional Centre was invited to address the meeting of heads of defence forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Lomé. The Centre briefed participants on the ongoing projects and outlined possible areas of future cooperation with ECOWAS.

B. Small arms and light weapons

14. The Regional Centre supported African Member States in implementing global and regional instruments to combat the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons by providing assistance in implementing regional and national action plans and in strengthening the capacity of Governments and civil society organizations. The Centre provided support to the African Union and African regional economic communities in the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, the Kinshasa Convention and the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, as well as Agenda 2063. In this regard, particular efforts were directed towards supporting legislative reform to assist countries in developing national legal frameworks on small arms and light weapons. The Centre also supported countries in developing the appropriate national coordination mechanisms in accordance with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. It also supported the improvement of the physical security and management of governmental weapons stockpiles and the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

15. As an observer member of the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, the Regional Centre continued to work closely with the African Union and the African regional economic communities, in particular by providing expertise to the seventh and eighth meetings of the Steering Committee, held in Djibouti in October 2016 and in Ethiopia in May 2017, respectively. The meetings provided an opportunity to reflect on and draw lessons from the challenges and achievements of national, subregional and regional small arms control efforts and to discuss how the Steering Committee could further improve coordination, effectiveness and sustainability. The Centre also made a presentation on its activities and outlined its priorities for the year ahead.

16. On 23 November 2016, Regional Centre experts and security officials from the Ministry of Security of Togo attended a one-day training course in Lomé on the International Small Arms Control Standards and the related assessment tool.

17. The Regional Centre participated in discussions at the International Workshop on the Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition, which was held in Geneva on 8 and 9 December 2016 by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The Workshop provided a platform for discussions on the safe and secure management of ammunition, in particular on the challenges regarding implementing international standards on ammunition management.

18. On 10 February 2017, the Regional Centre attended a steering committee meeting of the European Union-African Union project "Fight against the illicit accumulation and trafficking of firearms in Africa" held in Mombasa, Kenya. At the

meeting, participants reviewed progress achieved under the project. The African Union briefed the committee on the Lusaka master road map 2016.

19. As part of its contribution to implementing the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, the Regional Centre continued to coordinate the implementation of a three-year project to improve the physical security and stockpile management of weapons to reduce the risk of diversion of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, as well as accidental explosions at ammunition sites. The project is supported by the European Union and covers six countries in the Sahel: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria.

20. Within the framework of the aforementioned project, in collaboration with national authorities, the Regional Centre organized a national consultation workshop in Mauritania in April 2017 that brought together 28 participants representing diverse stakeholders, including government ministries, State security agencies and civil society organizations, to discuss the proliferation of small and light weapons. The Centre conducted a review of small arms-related legislation in the six beneficiary countries. It also assisted the national commissions on small arms of Mali and Burkina Faso in the organization of legal drafting workshops in August 2016 and March 2017, respectively, to review draft legislation before submission to the legislature. In cooperation with the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons of Nigeria, a national consultative workshop was held in Abuja from 2 to 4 August 2016, with over 30 participants in attendance. The Centre held consultations with federal government representatives, members of the armed forces and the civil society on project implementation in Nigeria, including the selection of three arms storage facilities for piloting physical security and stockpile management of weapons procedures.

21. The Regional Centre organized a regional workshop in Lomé in November 2016 on physical security and stockpile management of weapons procedures, bringing together 32 participants from government ministries, security agencies and civil society in the six beneficiary countries. They were joined by experts from ECOWAS, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the Group of Five for the Sahel to discuss the findings of the national consultations organized by the Centre and share experiences on physical security and stockpile management of weapons and small arms and light weapons control. Participants also reviewed the results of the study on arms control legislation carried out by the Centre in the beneficiary countries.

22. In order to improve States' capacities to prevent the diversion and acquisition of arms by non-State armed groups, including terrorist groups, the Regional Centre supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on the elimination of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. That support was provided within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The Centre, in collaboration with ECOWAS, held a national experts meeting on subregional cross-border cooperation in the control of small arms and light weapons under existing regional and subregional instruments on 4 and 5 August 2016. The meeting, attended by 52 representatives from Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, was aimed at strengthening subregional efforts in the area of judicial and military cooperation to prevent the acquisition of small arms and light weapons by terrorists in the four beneficiary States. It provided a first platform for stakeholders to identify gaps in the legislative and judicial systems dealing with international cooperation in small arms control at both the national and regional levels.

23. Under the same initiative, the Regional Centre, in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and

Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a capacity-building workshop in Yaoundé from 24 to 28 January 2017 to train national security sector trainers in the fight against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. That workshop also benefited the four Lake Chad Basin States and brought together 37 national and international experts on improving cross-border and subregional cooperation for the control of trafficking in small arms and light weapons in relation to existing regional and subregional instruments.

24. The Regional Centre has been working with the Government of Togo to develop a new project that aims to support the marking of weapons, the rehabilitation of stockpile facilities and the destruction of surplus, obsolete or illicit weapons, their ammunition and other related materials. In response to requests for assistance from the Governments of Cameroon and Madagascar, the Centre is developing project proposals on technical assistance and capacity-building in practical disarmament.

25. In February 2017, the Regional Centre published the "Assessment survey on small arms in the Sahel region and neighbouring countries" series. The study focused on nine countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. The report was jointly prepared with the Small Arms Survey and the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security.

C. Arms Trade Treaty

26. The Regional Centre participated with the African Union Commission in the organization of a consultative meeting in N'Djamena in May 2017 on the Treaty and its implementation in Central Africa. Other partners included the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the Small Arms Survey. Twenty national experts from Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe reviewed the Treaty's principles and provisions, its review mechanisms and progress in its ratification in Central Africa, including assistance available to States parties in the implementation of the Treaty.

27. Within the framework of its ongoing work to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Africa, the Regional Centre provided policy and technical expertise to a workshop for lusophone parliamentarians on the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action and hosted by Cabo Verde (18-19 July 2016).

D. Weapons of mass destruction

28. The Regional Centre participated in a regional workshop for Africa on implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction held in in Addis Ababa on 13 and 14 September 2016. The event, organized by the African Union and the Implementation Support Unit for the Convention, prepared and raised the awareness of African Union member States with regard to the Eighth Review Conference of the Convention. The Centre shared its experience on capacity-building in the implementation of the Convention across the African continent.

29. The Regional Centre supported Member States in their efforts to implement instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The Centre worked to raise the awareness of African States of the implementation of the resolution. The Centre organized a workshop in Niamey on 27 and 28 July 2016 on the drafting of a national export control list at the request of the Government of the Niger. Forty representatives from the Group of Five for the Sahel States took part in the event. The workshop resulted in an outcome document, the Niamey Declaration, which calls for collective regional efforts to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) among the Group's countries.

30. The Regional Centre participated in a seminar organized by the Institute for Security Studies in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 December 2016 on the theme "Assistance and capacity-building in the context of implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)". The Centre shared its experience concerning provision of technical assistance in support of the implementation of the resolution, including on lessons learned and challenges observed.

E. Information and outreach

31. In cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Regional Centre developed a practical guide on disarmament in French for diplomats and experts from African States to strengthen the capacity of francophone countries to engage on issues relating to peace and security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. The guide elaborates on a range of topics related to these issues, including detailed references on international, regional and subregional instruments. The Centre hosted a workshop in Lomé on 13 June 2016 to validate and revise the draft guide with 19 African experts. The guide was published in January 2017, and the Centre will identify and coordinate with national disarmament institutions to disseminate it.

32. As part of the celebrations to mark the International Day of Peace, the Regional Centre, in collaboration with the Government of Togo and UNDP, organized a panel discussion on the theme "Culture of peace and disarmament: a pledge to sustainable development in Africa". The event constituted a platform for exchange and discussions and was attended by over 200 participants from the Togolese authorities, the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations and the media. It served to promote the importance of peace and disarmament in a development context. Discussions were led by representatives of the diplomatic corps and experts in the field.

33. On 26 and 27 January 2017, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Regional Centre co-organized a travel study programme to Lomé for some 30 youth leaders from Burundi. The programme included modules on various topics relating to peace and disarmament.

34. The Regional Centre's electronic newsletter, "UNREC focus", is distributed to more than 7,300 global subscribers, providing information about regional disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues and the initiatives and activities of the Centre. New interactive features were added to the Centre's website, including a resource hub. It currently includes an online database, publications, documents, treaties and fact sheets related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. To date, information gathered has resulted in the compilation of more than 150 documents and 50 Internet links. Such initiatives have increased the traffic to its website, which currently receives an average of 7,000

visitors per month. Furthermore, the Centre maintains an interactive social media platform that provides regular updates and information on its activities.

35. To promote a message of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation for a world of peace, the Regional Centre sent letters, background information and suggestions for activities to all United Nations country teams based in Africa and national authorities inviting them to celebrate Disarmament Week (24-30 October 2016) and the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence (5-12 June 2017).

IV. Financial situation, staffing and administration

A. Financial situation

36. The Regional Centre was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2016, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Centre were received in the amount of $380,051. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for 2016 is contained in the annex to the present report.

37. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Government of Cameroon, as well as the European Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, for their financial contributions. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to the Government of Togo for its long-standing financial and political support provided in its capacity as host country to the Regional Centre.

38. The Secretary-General continues to encourage financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre from African States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

39. The Secretary-General thanks all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Regional Centre and encourages their continuous support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate.

B. Staffing

40. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Office or Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and two General Service staff (G-7 and G-6 Local level).

41. Project personnel are funded through voluntary contributions. The Secretary-General thanks the European Union for the funding of one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and two United Nations Volunteers, the Government of Germany for the funding of an Associate Expert in legal affairs and the Government of the United States of America for supporting the cost of a national United Nations Volunteer through the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

V. Conclusion

42. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to carry out its programmes, with the support of donors, to provide assistance to African Member States, at their request, in the areas of peace, security and disarmament and enhanced its collaboration with partners, including the African Union and

subregional organizations, with a view to achieving synergies in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation objectives in Africa.

43. The Regional Centre assisted Member States, at their request, in strengthening their capacity to combat the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and in implementing instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism, including Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2178 (2014). Furthermore, the Centre engaged in activities relating to the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and conducted outreach initiatives to raise awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

44. The sustained number of requests for assistance from Member States and regional organizations demonstrated the importance of the work of the Regional Centre in the field of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and security in the region. Building on its past work and expertise, the Centre continues to develop and implement new projects and activities that meet the needs of Member States on issues within its mandate.

45. In carrying out its programme and activities, the Regional Centre collaborated with key stakeholders, in particular the African Union, and strengthened its continental role by creating networks and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels. The Centre will continue its efforts to maximize the utilization of resources and expertise through cooperation and the sharing of experiences with partner entities in the region.

46. The Secretary-General calls upon Member States and other donors to provide the Regional Centre with the financial and in-kind support necessary to enable it to continue to fulfil its mandate effectively in serving the needs of African Member States in the fields of peace, security and disarmament.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2016

(United States dollars)

Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2016	**1 350 652**
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions	380 051[a]
Investment revenue	17 068
Total revenue and prior-year adjustment	**397 119**
Expenses	
Operating expenses	1 249 656
Refunds to donors	32 062[b]
Total expenses	**1 281 718**
Surplus/(deficit)	(884 599)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	**466 053**

[a] Consists of voluntary contributions from donors: Economic Community of Central African States, $21,730.07; Cameroon, $7,272.00; European Union, $351,049.05.

[b] Consists of a refund to Germany.

United Nations A/72/98

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 June 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 101 (d) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific during the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to promote dialogue and confidence-building in the region and beyond by organizing the fifteenth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, and the twenty-sixth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, held in Nagasaki, Japan, which were held in November and December 2016, respectively. The Conferences served as important forums to address key challenges posed to the international non-proliferation regimes regarding weapons of mass destruction. Participants focused on the nexus between the security of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials and cybersecurity, and discussed specific measures that would make the current review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons more efficient.

The Centre promoted the universalization and implementation of multilateral non-proliferation and arms control instruments, providing capacity-building programmes for Member States upon their request. In this regard, the Centre organized subregional and national workshops for South-East Asian and Pacific islands States to enhance their capacity to control small arms and light weapons and other conventional arms, and to enable States to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Arms Trade Treaty. In addition, the Centre undertook a project with the Government of the Philippines to provide technical and legal

* A/72/50.

17-10205 (E) 070517

Please recycle

assistance to strengthen control of small arms. Since July 2016 and in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Centre has been engaged in a joint project to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Central Asian States and Mongolia.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/65, the Centre relocated from Bangkok to Kathmandu, and resumed its operations from Nepal as of 6 February 2017.

The Regional Centre depends solely upon voluntary financial contributions to implement its programme activities. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to Member States, in particular the host country, Nepal, and other partners that have provided support for the Centre's operations and programmes with financial and in-kind assistance. He also wishes to thank Thailand for its support for the Centre's temporary operation from Bangkok. The Secretary-General calls upon countries in the region and beyond to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to ensure the sustainability of its activities and operations and to enable it to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by Member States in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament through the appropriate utilization of available resources. The Regional Centre facilitates and coordinates the implementation of regional activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Asia and the Pacific.

2. In its resolution 71/78, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction at the activities carried out in the past year by the Regional Centre and reaffirmed its strong support for the role of the Centre in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among the Member States in Asia and the Pacific. It also expressed its gratitude to the Government of the host country, Nepal, for its cooperation and financial support. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to the above-mentioned request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre during the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for the first year of the biennium 2016-2017 is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Activities of the Regional Centre

4. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre focused its programmatic activities on the following areas: promoting the implementation of global disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments, including by providing capacity-building and technical and legal assistance to Member States in the region, upon their request; enhancing dialogue and confidence-building in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security; and undertaking outreach and advocacy initiatives.

A. Promoting the implementation of global disarmament and non-proliferation instruments

5. The Regional Centre organized a Pacific regional capacity-building workshop in Apia, from 13 to 15 September 2016, to foster dialogue towards enhancing regional and national capacities to meet the requirements of the Arms Trade Treaty. Hosted by the Government of Samoa, the event brought together representatives from 10 Pacific island States with international arms control experts from governments, civil society and academia to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Treaty. Participants exchanged experiences in the preparation for ratification and implementation of the Treaty and identified needs for assistance and opportunities for cooperation. Supplementing the workshop was a special session on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as a practical exercise on compiling national reports regarding the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures. The workshop was funded by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

6. In cooperation with the Government of Cambodia, the Regional Centre organized a two-day national capacity-building workshop on control of small arms and light weapons, in Phnom Penh, on 7 and 8 December 2016. The event brought together more than 20 government officials and experts from relevant ministries and agencies, as well as international and United Nations experts, to discuss key international agreements, in particular the Programme of Action and the Arms Trade Treaty. The workshop focused on concrete measures to strengthen national control of such weapons, particularly the technical aspects, a national coordinating mechanism and a national action plan related to such control. The workshop was funded by the Government of Germany.

7. At the request of the Government of the Philippines, the Regional Centre provided technical and legal assistance to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action, and to help build capacity towards ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, through a three-month project that lasted from January to March 2017. As part of the project, international technical and legal experts, together with representatives from the Centre, conducted an initial visit to Manila, where they assessed and identified needs for assistance in consultation with Government officials and by conducting on-site visits. The experts subsequently prepared review reports with practical recommendations on strengthening relevant laws, regulations, rules and administrative instructions, as well as technical operating procedures and practices for the effective control of small arms and light weapons in accordance with international standards. The recommendations where presented to and discussed with Government officials at a final summary visit in March 2017. The project was funded by the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation.

8. In order to build the capacity of South-East Asian States to implement the Programme of Action, the Regional Centre organized a training hosted by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Vientiane, in June 2017. Participants from eight States of the region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Association of Chiefs of Police presented and discussed practical issues of the implementation of the Programme at the national level and the utilization of the International Small Arms Control Standards. In their presentations, the representatives of the Centre and of the Office for Disarmament Affairs paid special attention to the synergies between implementing the Programme of Action and reporting thereon in the framework of the Programme, on the one hand, and monitoring progress towards targets 16.1 and 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on the other. Two practical exercises on designing a national action plan and preparing online national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action constituted the central part of the event and served to build the capacity of national representatives in the use of the International Small Arms Control Standards assessment tool and the preparation of the report. The project was funded by the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation.

9. The Regional Centre organized a round-table discussion in Kathmandu, in November 2016, to promote the regional implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The event, hosted by the Government of Nepal, brought together representatives from 15 Member States, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The meeting focused on the 2016 comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) (see S/2016/1038), its synergies with other disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, particularly the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention), and the role of regional cooperation in its implementation. The event also marked the relaunch

of the Kathmandu process, a dialogue to promote disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation in Asia and the Pacific and to build confidence and foster understanding of those issues.

10. In cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the group of experts appointed to assist the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Regional Centre launched a joint project, in July 2016, in support of regional implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The project aims to advance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Central Asia and Mongolia through facilitating country-specific dialogues, developing and implementing national action plans, enhancing States' reporting to the Committee, sharing effective national practices and broadening collaboration among international and regional actors. It includes several project activities designed to improve national implementation of the resolution, as follows: (a) national inter-agency round-table discussions to assess the status of implementation and assist in developing national action plans; (b) expert review meetings to evaluate the progress in executing national action plans; and (c) peer-review meetings to share experiences and effective practices among States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

11. In the framework of the joint project, the Regional Centre organized three country-specific dialogues in the form of national round-table meetings to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The events were held in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia, in September 2016, December 2016 and May 2017, respectively. The events brought together officials of relevant State agencies of the respective Governments to review the progress achieved and outline a road map to further update and develop national action plans. New measures proposed during the meetings include the enhancement of national legislation, the adoption of national control lists, the strengthening and enforcement of domestic control mechanisms and the provision of training and educational activities related to ensuring the safety and security of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

12. As a follow-up to the national round-table meetings, in the framework of the joint project, the Regional Centre organized two expert review events, for Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, to assess the progress in the development and implementation of their national action plans, which were held in Vienna, in March and May 2017, respectively. At those events, the States reported on the status of national action plans and received recommendations from international experts, with special attention paid to challenges encountered and lessons learned from the plans' implementation. The national round-table and expert review meetings resulted in draft updates by Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan of their national action plans, and a draft framework and structured outline for the Mongolian national action plan.

13. Still in the framework of the joint project, a peer review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) was held in Minsk in August 2016. It was the first such peer review in a trilateral format. Officials representing Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, alongside OSCE representatives, the group of experts appointed to assist the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Regional Centre, exchanged experiences, developed practical recommendations and prepared documents that included legislative, practical and technical elements relating to resolution 1540 (2004), in order to support the national action plans of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The participating experts discussed and shared national approaches to the implementation of the resolution, including export-control legislation and border controls with a specific focus on biological and chemical security. The meeting included two site visits related to the detection of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. The participants agreed on a set of

recommendations to improve the national action plans of those two Central Asian States.

B. Promoting dialogue and confidence in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and security

14. The Regional Centre organized two annual international conferences on disarmament, non-proliferation and security issues, in collaboration with the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea. The conferences served as important forums for engaging Member States, intergovernmental organizations, academia, civil society and other stakeholders in informal and frank discussions on key challenges in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, contributing to security and confidence-building and to the efforts to seek solutions to complex issues in such matters both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region.

15. In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Centre organized the fifteenth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held on Jeju Island on 17 and 18 November 2016. Some 40 representatives from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, policy institutes and academia participated in the Conference. The agenda addressed the nuclear challenges on the Korean Peninsula, particularly the implementation of Security Council resolution 2270 (2016), the impact and effectiveness of the sanctions regime and how to move forward. The Conference also focused on the nexus between the security of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials and cybersecurity, specifically on the form and extent of cyberthreats to relevant facilities and on ways to counter such threats. In addition, participants debated the nature of, and challenges and ideas for, further improvements in relation to the key export control regimes for nuclear, biological, chemical and missile weapons.

16. In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and with the support of the Prefecture and City of Nagasaki, the Centre organized the twenty-sixth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, on the theme "Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons", in Nagasaki, on 12 and 13 December 2016. Over 60 representatives took part in the Conference and discussed specific measures that would make the current review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons more effective. These included such regional security issues as encouraging direct dialogue among the States concerned on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction, and engaging with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cap its nuclear weapons programme and reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Participants advocated deeper nuclear reductions and de-alerting weapons from prompt-launch status and argued for preventing further modernization of nuclear arsenals, banning nuclear tests and fostering the role of civil society in promoting nuclear disarmament. The Centre organized or participated in several side events on the margin of the Conference, including the forum of Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons and the "United Nations Posters for Peace" exhibition.

C. Partnership, outreach and advocacy

17. The Regional Centre continued its efforts to enhance partnerships with major stakeholders in the region, including Member States, subregional organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society, through its concerted communications and outreach activities and through joint initiatives and

collaborative projects. In this context, the Centre, inter alia, strengthened its partnerships with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, the European Union, OSCE, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Pacific Islands Forum, through the exchange of information, invitations to each other's events and work on joint projects.

18. The Regional Centre participated in and, on behalf of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, contributed a presentation to the deliberations of the Working Group of the Executive Committee of the Commission for the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. The event was held in July 2016, in Vientiane, and focused on amendments to the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and on facilitating the signing of the Protocol by the nuclear-weapon States.

19. The Regional Centre also participated in and contributed to the first edition of the Women Higher Education for Peace Vienna Forum, organized by the Vienna office of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in July 2016. Part of the broader Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership initiative, the Forum brought together professionals from relevant international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and think tanks.

20. Furthermore, the Centre contributed to a regional consultative meeting on preventing arms diversion, organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, held in Bangkok, in March 2017. The event focused on discussing regional understandings and options to enhance cooperation and strengthen end use and end user control systems.

21. In addition, the Centre participated in and contributed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime expert group meeting on education for justice, held in Vienna, in March 2017, to develop recommendations for university courses on preventing the illicit trafficking of firearms and armed violence and establishing and maintaining gun-free zones.

22. Lastly, the Regional Centre, in partnership with OSCE and the group of experts appointed to assist the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), contributed to the organization of a training session for national points of contact from Central Asian participating States of OSCE on implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), held in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation, in June and July 2016.

D. Resumption of operation from Nepal

23. As a result of the strong earthquakes in Nepal, in April and May 2015, the Centre had temporarily relocated to Bangkok, in order to be able to continue its services and programmes. During the reporting period, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/65, the Regional Centre was heavily engaged in preparing for relocating to and resuming its operations from Kathmandu. The activities were conducted in close cooperation with the Government of Nepal and the United Nations Development Programme in Nepal, and included identifying a seismically safe building for the Centre's office, completing refurbishment thereof and the installation of office equipment. In November 2016, the Regional Centre organized an inauguration event in Kathmandu, with the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. On 6 February 2017, the Centre relocated to Kathmandu and resumed its operation from Nepal. The Secretary-General wishes to thank the Government of Thailand for temporarily hosting the Regional Centre in Bangkok, and the Government of Nepal

for the cooperation and support, including financial support, for the relocation of the Centre back to Kathmandu.

E. Future activities

24. The Regional Centre will continue to assist Member States in the region upon their request, with a focus on practical assistance and capacity-building in order to contribute to national and regional efforts towards arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to promote dialogue and confidence-building and peace and disarmament education in the region. The Centre will remain seized with the task of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by assisting Member States in the region in their efforts to reduce illicit arms flows, reduce gun violence and ensure women's participation in combating the illicit trade of small arms.

III. Financial situation, staffing and administration

A. Financial situation

25. The Regional Centre was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/39 D on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2016, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Centre were received in the amount of $484,005. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for 2016 is contained in the annex to the present report.

26. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to Governments that made financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre: Australia, China, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Thailand. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to the Government of Nepal for its long-standing financial and political support provided in its capacity as host country to the Regional Centre.

27. The Secretary-General continues to encourage financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre from Asian and Pacific States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

28. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all Member States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Regional Centre and encourages their continuous support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate.

B. Staffing

29. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one General Service staff member (G-7, Local level).

30. The host country, Nepal, through its annual contribution, funded two additional local staff. The Secretary-General thanks the Government of Switzerland for the funding of one Associate Expert and the Government of Japan for the funding of one United Nations Volunteer.

IV. Conclusion

31. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre engaged in and provided assistance for a number of disarmament initiatives in Asia and the Pacific. Working with Member States and other stakeholders, it continued to fulfil its mandate to provide support, upon request, to Member States. The annual conferences held in Japan and the Republic of Korea continue to provide important forums for promoting dialogue and confidence-building in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security.

32. The Centre also engaged in outreach and advocacy activities. Its efforts to strengthen the capacity of States in the region to control conventional arms and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors continue to be highly relevant. The Centre plans to expand the scope of its activities to include peace and disarmament education, as well as activities on the full and effective inclusion of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as part of the efforts of the United Nations to further promote peace, security and disarmament in the region and the world.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for 2016

(United States dollars)

Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2016	**945 995**
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions	484 005[a]
Investment revenue	7 606
Total revenue and prior year adjustment	**491 611**
Expenses	
Operating expenses	437 151
Refunds to donors	38 070[b]
Total expenses	**475 221**
Surplus/(deficit)	16 390
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	**962 385**

[a] Consists of voluntary contributions from donors as follows: Australia, $102,975; China, $150,000; Kazakhstan, $10,000; Nepal, $111,685; New Zealand, $64,645; Republic of Korea, $41,700; Thailand, $3,000.

[b] Consists of refunds to Germany, $23,466; Switzerland, $12,436; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, $2,168.

United Nations A/72/98/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 July 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 101 (d) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 26

For the existing text *substitute*

26. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to Governments that made financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre: Australia, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Thailand. The Secretary-General also expresses his gratitude to OSCE for its financial contribution. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to the Government of Nepal for its long-standing financial and political support provided in its capacity as host country to the Regional Centre.

2. Annex

Under the table, *insert*

Note: In addition, contributions were made to the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities, for use by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, as follows: Japan, $16,000; Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, $120,000.

* A/72/50.

17-11748 (E) 140717

Please recycle

United Nations A/72/99

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 June 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 101 (c) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from July 2016 to June 2017.

During that period, the Regional Centre undertook more than 60 technical, legal and policy assistance activities to assist Latin American and Caribbean States, at their request, with the implementation of international instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

With a view to supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument), the Regional Centre provided technical training to more than 600 personnel of the national authorities of Member States on the marking, tracing, stockpile management and destruction of small arms. Through community outreach initiatives and technical assistance, the Centre raised the awareness of the general public and a number of private security companies about small arms control and the prevention of armed violence. The Centre worked with four Central and South American States on strengthening their implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre provided legislative, policy and capacity-building assistance to more than 280 national officials in Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The Centre also developed tools to aid States in preventing the financing of proliferation and in preparing control lists to counter

* A/72/50.

17-10207 (E) 300617

Please recycle

the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and provided capacity-building assistance to prevent proliferation in the context of maritime and port security.

The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Member States and other partners that supported the Regional Centre's operation and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions, in particular the host country, Peru, and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre in order to sustain its activities in response to increasing requests for assistance and cooperation from Member States in the region.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/77, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of peace, disarmament and development among its Member States, and encouraged the Centre to further develop programmes in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development, and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support for Member States' initiatives in those areas at the regional and subregional levels.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-second session. In the present report, submitted pursuant to that request, the main activities carried out by the Regional Centre from July 2016 to June 2017 are highlighted. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre in 2016 is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The Regional Centre, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. It is mandated to provide, at their request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Main areas of activity

4. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook more than 60 technical, legal and training assistance activities to support the efforts by States in the region in their implementation of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments and adherence to international standards and norms in those fields.

5. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Regional Centre aligned its activities to support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 ("Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"). Within this context, the Centre launched a new project in Colombia, Honduras, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago to boost the participation of youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, as part of a multi-agency project, the Centre worked with 800 adolescents in northern Peru to raise their awareness about the dangers of firearms. As part of that project, the Centre also lent technical assistance, resulting in the destruction of close to 10,000 confiscated weapons.

6. In support of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Regional Centre launched a new X-ray identification training tool in Central America for use by front-line law enforcement officials to combat weapons-trafficking through the postal system. In addition, the Centre bolstered State capacity to undertake forensic ballistic work, in nine Caribbean States, in alignment with the International Tracing Instrument. As part of a project to improve small arms control within the private security sector, the Centre helped to destroy more than 450 small arms held by private security companies and supported the secondary marking of more than 500

weapons held by such companies, while training close to 250 Government officials and private security company personnel.

7. With a view to informing public debate, the Regional Centre published two new regional studies, one on the status of control over the private security sector, the other on the feasibility and impact of the use of less lethal weapons as alternatives to gun use.

8. In a significant development, the Regional Centre provided, upon the request of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, technical input into and guidance on the laying down of arms component of the Colombian peace process. That intervention marked the first time that the Centre provided assistance to a United Nations peace operation.

9. Likewise, the Regional Centre continued to impart training and technical assistance to more than 125 officials from four countries in Latin America in an effort to strengthen State implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

10. In order to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Regional Centre assisted eight States in drafting new legislation and defining national priorities for voluntary national implementation action plans. The Centre also developed new technical guidelines on combating the financing of proliferation and adopting national control lists to support States' efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

11. Furthermore, the Regional Centre also continued its efforts to promote the participation of women in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives, in line with General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Overall, 40 per cent of the participants in the Centre's activities were women, an increase from the previous reporting period.

A. Public security programme

1. Youth: agents of change to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals

12. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that "children and young women and men are critical agents of change". In support of this, the Regional Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteer programme, launched a project to create spaces for young people to enhance their knowledge of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and engage in meaningful dialogue on peace, security and civic participation. Four countries (Colombia, Honduras, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago) are partnering with the Centre to develop the first set of community-based indicators for Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4 ("By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime").

13. The link between youth and peace and security issues was also maintained throughout a multi-agency project in northern Peru, in August 2016, during which the Regional Centre gathered 800 adolescents for theatrical dance performances to raise their awareness about the dangers of firearms use. Through artistic dance and urban music, the young performers recreated stories epitomizing the impact of firearm use on local communities.

14. The project likewise contributed to the empowerment and security of youth and women through exploratory dialogue, in particular on the gender-specific impact of armed violence, with community-based stakeholders. In support of that approach, in July 2016, the Centre shared its accumulated expertise on prevention

strategies to address armed violence at a seminar on reducing the elevated levels of violence in Peru's northern city of Trujillo.

15. This multifaceted project also encompassed collaboration with the national law enforcement community and the national regulatory entity for security services, firearms, ammunition and explosives for civil use of Peru, resulting in the destruction of close to 10,000 weapons. That activity, which coincided with Small Arms Destruction Day, 9 July 2016, showcased the ongoing efforts of Peru to rid vulnerable communities of confiscated weapons and reduce the risk of their diversion and misuse.

2. Combating weapons trafficking through the postal service

16. For well over two decades, the law enforcement community across the region has both provided and received technical assistance from the Regional Centre. During the period covered by the present report, the Centre continued to work with front-line responders to mitigate the diversion of weapons through training initiatives and the provision of practical tools.

17. In March 2017, 40 Costa Rican law enforcement officials benefited from specialized training to facilitate the detection and interception of small arms, parts, components and ammunition that are trafficked through the post. The course made use of the Regional Centre's newest training tool: an X-ray identification guide developed in collaboration with the Switzerland-based Center for Adaptive Security and Research Applications. The pioneering guide provides postal and customs agents with the ability to detect and identify weapons that are shipped illicitly through the postal service. The guide will help to counter this new trafficking modality, which to date has been virtually uncontrolled.

18. In a clear example of the impact of the Regional Centre's course, Costa Rican authorities who had participated in the training later intercepted two packages, containing a total of 20 rifle magazines being trafficked through the post. The Centre is collaborating with the Universal Postal Union and the Postal Union for the Americas, Spain and Portugal to expand the course, and during the reporting period received numerous requests from other States in the region for such training.

3. Improving small arms tracing capacity

19. The Regional Centre continued to support the strengthening of national firearms ballistics systems in eight Caribbean States (Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago) in order to combat illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunition. The main goals of the project are to standardize national forensic ballistic practices and strengthen regional information-sharing networks with the aim of reducing impunity in cases of illicit firearms use and trafficking. This assistance also contributed substantively to State implementation of both the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

20. Within the framework of this project, a regional meeting on forensic ballistics was held in December 2016 in Port of Spain, in cooperation with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Community Implementing Agency for Crime and Security. The participants highlighted the importance of quality management systems in laboratories, in support of the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network. The meeting was attended by 40 national representatives of 15 Caribbean States.

21. Within the reporting period, the Regional Centre also provided basic laboratory materials and high-tech equipment to firearms examiners and laboratory technicians,

along with on-site and online training, and facilitated the incorporation of 17 standard operating procedures into national systems. Fifty firearms examiners received an assessment tool, in order to be able to continuously improve their work-related competencies.

22. The overall impact of forensic ballistics project interventions during the reporting period includes substantial improvements in the working conditions of firearms examiners as related to health and safety and in the security and organization of their workspaces, along with increasing the capacity of firearms examiners and laboratory technicians to efficiently manage the evidence entering the laboratories, in keeping with international standards.

4. Promoting small arms control practices among private security companies

23. International standards have also paved the way for a joint project intended to strengthen the capacities of the Governments of Member States to control small arms under the ownership of private security companies and promote good governance in that sector. The project, which is implemented in conjunction with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, is aimed at addressing the ongoing increase in the privatization of security in the region through support for the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers.

24. As a result of the success of the project's first phase of implementation in El Salvador and Peru, it was expanded to include Costa Rica and Guatemala. Activities in Costa Rica led to the destruction, in April 2017, of more than 450 weapons held by 17 different companies, representing the first time that private security companies in Costa Rica voluntarily destroyed weapons. Legal assistance to national authorities as regards private security legislation and small arms control also fed into policy debates in Costa Rica and the legislative reform of private security company oversight and control.

25. Assistance to all beneficiary States also included seminars on a range of topics, including the use of force, and technical training sessions for project stakeholders, along with assessments of private security company-owned armouries and storage facilities, reaching close to 250 Government officials and private security company personnel.

26. In furtherance of the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, the Regional Centre also supported the secondary marking of more than 500 private security company weapons in Costa Rica to improve the inventory management of the companies' weapons and, hence, increase the possibility of tracing them.

27. A joint study undertaken by the project's implementers, released in October 2016, contains recommendations on the approaches that States and private security companies could follow to strengthen the regulation, oversight and operations of the armed private security sector in Latin America and the Caribbean for the improved security of citizens in general. It also explores whether employees of private security firms need to be armed in order to deliver their services effectively.

28. In further contribution to this and other intense debates under way in the region, the Regional Centre engaged in exploratory research on the legality, feasibility and impact of using less lethal weapons as alternatives to using guns. The study findings were presented in Peru, in December 2016, and in Colombia, in April 2017. The results of the research provide a solid, evidence-based starting point for regulating the use of less lethal weapons by security sector companies in the region.

5. Supporting the peace process in Colombia

29. The United Nations Mission in Colombia sought assistance from the Regional Centre to contribute to the "laying down of arms" component of the historic peace process negotiated between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army. The Centre initially offered support in the form of technical advice to the Mission in February 2017. To date, the Centre has provided input into technical and logistical planning for the laying down of arms and shared its expertise on methods and techniques for the deactivation of small arms and light weapons.

30. This initiative represents the first time that the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including its three Regional Centres, has contributed to a formal laying down of arms. The technical operating procedures developed by the Centre, which are based on international standards and best practices, such as the International Small Arms Control Standards and the United Nations SaferGuard programme's International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, have been applied throughout the implementation of the peace agreement.

B. Supporting the implementation of multilateral instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction

1. Arms Trade Treaty

31. The Regional Centre continued to lend support to strengthening State implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty through training courses and technical assistance provided to more than 50 national officials. In Colombia, the Centre helped to put into practice the Arms Trade Treaty provision calling for an "effective and transparent national control system" by convening, in April 2017, a technical seminar for Government officials to increase their understanding of international arms transfers and export risk assessment procedures. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the Ministry of Defence, is leading efforts towards the adjustment of national procedures for an effective implementation of the Treaty once it is ratified by the Government of Colombia.

32. The Regional Centre also organized, in January 2017, a national round table in Guatemala for personnel of the national authority in charge of arms trade controls. At the round table, guidelines were provided on the creation and main functions of a national control authority responsible for arms trade, in compliance with the provisions of the Treaty.

33. International partners continued to call on the Regional Centre to share its expertise relating to the Arms Trade Treaty. For instance, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Centre embarked on a joint initiative to develop an interactive database to map Arms Trade Treaty-related activities in the region with a view to identifying trends and gaps in assistance and thus bolstering the impact of future assistance. The German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, in the context of its efforts to support the European Union Arms Trade Treaty outreach project, continued to look to the Centre to contribute to national dialogue on the development of Treaty road maps, with a particular focus on licensing structures and maintaining export control lists.

2. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

34. The Regional Centre provided support to nine States in the region in their implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The support included the creation of an innovative guide and tools, legal and technical assistance in updating

legislative frameworks and assistance to States in defining national priorities for the implementation of the resolution. Practical training initiatives were also devised for effective response to weapons of mass destruction-related incidents at maritime ports.

35. The Regional Centre launched a first-of-its-kind guide to preparing control lists during a regional seminar on implementing resolution 1540 (2004), co-organized with the Organization of American States and held in Peru, in April 2017. That guide, which contains a focus list of weapons of mass destruction in the Caribbean region to facilitate the practical implementation of the control lists within a national context, identifies all the items from the main strategic trade control regimes that are recommended for inclusion in a national control list that complies with resolution 1540 (2004). The new tool will assist in the adoption of national control lists, thus contributing to the standardization of control measures throughout the region. The Centre benefited from the expert peer review by the World Customs Organization of the final version of the guide's components.

36. Tackling the financing of proliferation has become a priority for many countries seeking to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. To that end, in November and December 2016, the Regional Centre provided legal support to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in its drafting of proliferation-financing laws, through drafting workshops. The classes were focused on the creation of new offence provisions to criminalize the financing of proliferation and introduce new penalties for such activities. Emphasis was placed on broadening the function, role and scope of the legal powers of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago to enable regulation of the financing of proliferation and terrorism in addition to money laundering.

37. The Regional Centre held national a round table in Belize, in December 2016, Trinidad and Tobago, in December 2016, and Peru, in March 2017, to help States in identifying priorities for national implementation action plans to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The action plans are currently in their final phase of development and are expected to be presented formally to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in 2017.

38. In order to launch its assistance relating to resolution 1540 (2004) in Suriname, the Regional Centre conducted a national legal study evaluating the current status of that country's legislative implementation of the resolution. The findings and recommendations of the study were presented to a broad audience of Government stakeholders in April 2017, at a national round table held in Paramaribo. The legal study will provide a strong basis to assist the country in the preparation of its national implementation action plan, which is intended to commence in June 2017 with the Centre's support.

39. In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization, the Regional Centre organized, in December 2016, tabletop exercises in the Dominican Republic on risk management in the maritime domain. Twenty-five national authority personnel participated in the exercises. Crisis and risk management training, together with the development of protocols and contingency plans, were highlighted by the beneficiary State as priorities in the field of maritime security and in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

IV. Financial situation, staffing and administration

A. Financial situation

40. The Regional Centre was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2016, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund of the Centre were received in the amount of $2,190,894. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for 2016 is contained in the annex to the present report.

41. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Germany, Guyana, Mexico and the United States of America for their financial contributions. Those contributions enabled the Regional Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, at their request. He also expresses his appreciation to the Government of Peru for the long-standing financial and political support that it provides in its capacity as host country to the Centre.

42. The Secretary-General continues to encourage financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

43. The Secretary-General thanks all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Regional Centre and encourages their ongoing support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate.

B. Staffing and administration

44. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one General Service staff member (G-7 Local level).

45. Project personnel posts are funded through voluntary contributions. During the reporting period, cooperation between the Regional Centre and the United Nations Volunteers programme continued. The Centre recruited additional programmatic support personnel for its public security and non-proliferation and arms control programmes, including the aforementioned operational forensic ballistics project in the Caribbean and the private security project in Latin America. International consultants were contracted to assist with the creation of new tools and guides aimed at supporting the implementation of instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

V. Conclusion

46. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre engaged in more than 60 substantive activities to support States in their implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, the International Tracing Instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

47. The Regional Centre continued to expand its technical assistance in areas ranging from small arms and ammunition tracing and combating trafficking to improving physical security and stockpile management. The Centre also continued to support States in the strengthening of national frameworks on import and export

controls for conventional weapons and dual-use goods. The Centre supported States in their efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the provision of legal assistance and capacity-building workshops, including on maritime and port security.

48. The Regional Centre promoted the participation and role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by ensuring that women make up at least 25 per cent of the participants at all its events, reaching approximately 800 women during the reporting period.

49. The Secretary-General again calls upon those Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Regional Centre with the financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States, necessary for it to continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experience in their joint efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament in the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2016

(United States dollars)

Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2016	**3 915 300**
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions	2 190 894[a]
Investment revenue	32 545
Other exchange revenue	–
Total revenue	**2 223 439**
Expenses	
Operating expenses	2 081 526
Depreciation and amortization	–
Total expenses	**2 081 526**
Surplus/(deficit)	141 913
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	**4 057 213**

[a] Consists of voluntary contributions from donors as follows: Canada, $1,304,208; Germany, $620,427; Guyana, $1,031; Mexico, $5,000; Peru, $28,802; and the United States of America, $231,425.